GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1273
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
DATABASE OF MISSING CHILDREN
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government keeps the statistics of missing children in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such children, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether certain NGOs are involved in preparing data base of missing children;

(d) whether responsibilities are given by the Government to NGOs in the field of rescue and rehabilitation of missing children;

(e) if so, the details thereof and major reasons for this menace; and

(f) the action being contemplated to present the incidence of missing children in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HOLDYA GAVIT)

(a) & (b): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles the crime statistics on the basis of First Information Reports received by the police in the country. As missing of persons is not a cognizable crime, NCRB does not collect statistical information in this regard. However, NCRB receives case information from the States/UTs on missing children for the purpose of coordination only. A statement indicating the details of cases reported during the year 2006 is annexed. However, these figures are not an indicator of total number of missing children in the country, as missing persons traced are not reported to NCRB.

(c): No such proposal is under consideration of the Government to involve NGOs to prepare data base for the missing children in the country.

(d) & (e): Although 'rescue' and 'rehabilitation' of missing children are the responsibilities of the State Governments and UT Administrations, however, the Central Government has been, from time to time, advising the State Governments and UT Administrations to take appropriate measures in co-ordination with NGOs.

As per report of a Committee constituted by the National Human Rights Commission on 'Missing Children', the cases of missing children represent a conglomeration of a number of problems, including abductions/kidnappings by family members and non-family members or strangers, children who run away on their own or are forced to run away due to compelling circumstances in their families and extended surroundings, children who face unfriendly and hostile environment and are asked to leave home or who are abandoned, children who are trafficked or smuggled or exploited for various purposes, and children who are lost or injured.

(f): The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is in the process of putting in place a National Website for Missing Children with the support of UNICEF and National Informatics Centre (NIC). The Website on missing children on pilot basis has been launched in the State of West Bengal. Government has already constituted a Core Committee for this purpose.